

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 9807

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM - PASS TO AMB. ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)
SUBJECT: AMB. ATHERTON'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT, QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS AT BEN GURION AIRPORT, AUGUST 2, 1978

1. I AM VERY HAPPY TO RETURN TO ISRAEL. AS I THINK
YOU ALL WELL KNOW, I HAVE JUST COMPLETED SEVERAL DAYS OF
VERY THOROUGH, VERY DETAILED TALKS WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL AND HIS COLLEAGUES.
I WILL BE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER
AND OTHERS TO GIVE A REPORT ON MY TALKS AND MY IMPRESSIONS
FROM MY TIME IN CAIRO. I DON'T THINK REALLY THAT I SHOULD
SAY ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT THOSE TALKS BEFORE I HAVE
MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER; BUT I WILL SAY WHAT I HAVE
SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE
PEACE PROCESS CAN AND MUST GO FORWARD. SECRETARY VANCE
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WILL BE COMING VERY SHORTLY TO THE AREA TO CONSULT
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
EGYPT ABOUT HOW THAT MIGHT BE DONE AND I AM NOW GOING
TO BE PREPARING THE WAY IN THE DAYS BETWEEN NOW
AND HIS ARRIVAL FOR HIS TALKS HERE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

2. Q: MR. ATHERTON, YOU LEFT ISRAEL SAYING THE

U.S. EXPECTS THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER ROUND OF DIRECT
TALKS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. DOES THE U.S.
STILL EXPECT THAT WILL HAPPEN?

3. A. I DON'T RECALL THAT I'VE SAID THAT WE EXPECT
OR DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING AT THIS POINT. OUR VIEW
IS THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE PEACE PROCESS
GOING, AND CLEARLY THE QUESTION OF HOW THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS GOES FORWARD IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT IS GOING
TO BE DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT HERE.

4. Q: WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE IN ISRAEL ALL THE
WAY UNTIL THE SECRETARY ARRIVES?

5. A: I WILL BE STAYING HERE UNTIL THE SECRETARY ARRIVES.

6. Q: DO YOU CARRY ANY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT
TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN?

7. A: I AM NOT CARRYING ANY MESSAGE IN ANY FORMAL
SENSE, BUT CLEARLY I AM HERE TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF MY DISCUSSIONS WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT.

8. Q: WHAT ARE THE MAIN POINTS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT
TRIED TO EMPHASIZE TO ISRAEL THROUGH YOU?
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9. A: I CAN'T GET INTO ANY OF THE DETAILS I AM AFRAID;
IT WOULD BE QUITE INAPPROPRIATE I THINK BEFORE I'VE
EVEN MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LEWIS

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